

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
MARTINSBURG**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

TIMOTHY JOHN WATSON,

Defendant.

**CRIMINAL ACTION NO.: 3:20CR42
(GROH)**

CHANGE OF PLEA ORDER

On March 16, 2021, came the United States of America ("the Government") by its counsel, Jarod J. Douglas, Assistant United States Attorney, and also came Defendant in person and by counsel, Shawn McDermott, Esq., for a change of plea hearing. After placing Defendant under oath, the Court informed Defendant that if he gave false answers to the Court's questions, his answers may later be used against him in a prosecution for perjury or false statement and increase his sentence in this case.

As an initial matter, the undersigned informed Defendant of his right to have an Article III Judge preside over the change of plea hearing. After the Court's instruction, Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waived this right and executed a written waiver of the same.

Counsel for the Government advised the Court that the Government had entered into a plea agreement with Defendant. The Government then summarized the terms of the plea agreement. Defendant stated in open court that he fully understood and agreed

with the terms of the plea agreement and that there were no other agreements made between him and the Government.

The Court noted that because the plea agreement contains certain nonbinding recommendations pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), the Court cannot accept or reject the plea agreement and recommendations contained therein until the Court has had an opportunity to receive and review a presentence report. The Court advised the parties that it is not bound by the stipulations contained in the plea agreement and will defer action on the stipulations until receiving and reviewing the presentence report. The Court also informed Defendant that, under the terms of the plea agreement, he is entering into a limited waiver of his right to appeal and Defendant confirmed his agreement to the waiver of his appellate rights.

The Court **ORDERED** the plea agreement filed.

The Court confirmed that Defendant had received and reviewed with his attorney the original Indictment in this matter. Defendant waived reading of the original Indictment in open court. The Court then reviewed with Defendant Count Four (4) of the original Indictment, including the elements of the crime the United States would have to prove at trial. The Government proffered a factual basis for the plea. Neither Defendant's counsel nor Defendant disputed the proffer when given the opportunity to do so.

The Court then reviewed the maximum sentence for **Count Four (4)**, to which Defendant proposed to enter a plea of guilty. The Court advised Defendant that, as part of the fine, he could be required to pay the costs of imprisonment, community confinement, or supervision. The Court also informed Defendant of the mandatory special

assessment fee applicable to this case. Further, Defendant was informed that restitution may be an issue in this case and that forfeiture is an issue in this case. Additionally, Defendant was informed that a conviction may have additional consequences if he is not a United States citizen.

The Court informed Defendant that the Sentencing Guidelines are merely advisory. However, under the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, certain Sentencing Guidelines could be used in determining a sentence in this case. Defendant stated that he had reviewed the various factors taken into consideration by the Sentencing Guidelines with his attorney and that he understood that the sentence could not be determined until after the United States Probation Office had prepared a presentence report. The Court also noted that it was not bound by the recommendations or stipulations in the plea agreement and that if the sentence ultimately imposed was more severe than that expected, Defendant would not have the right to withdraw the plea of guilty.

The Court reviewed with Defendant all of the rights that are forfeited by tender of a plea of guilty. The Court advised Defendant of his right to plead not guilty and maintain that plea during a trial before a jury of his peers. The Court also informed Defendant of the right to be represented by counsel during trial, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, the right not to testify, the right to present evidence and subpoena witnesses and the right to have the Government prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. The Court also noted that the jury's verdict must be unanimous. Defendant stated in open court that he understood all of these rights and understood that he would be giving up all

of these rights by entering a plea of guilty. Defendant and his counsel stated that Defendant understood all of the consequences of pleading guilty.

Defendant stated that the plea was not a result of any threat, coercion, or harassment and that the plea was not the result of any promises except those contained in the plea agreement. Defendant stated there was nothing he had asked his lawyer to do that was not done. Defendant further stated that his attorney had adequately represented him in this matter and that neither he nor his attorney had found an adequate defense to the charge contained in Count Four (4) of the original Indictment.

Defendant then entered a plea of **GUILTY to Count Four (4)** of the original Indictment and stated that he was in fact guilty of the crime charged in Count Four (4) of the original Indictment.

Based upon Defendant's statements and the Government proffer, the Court finds that the plea is freely and voluntarily given, that Defendant is aware of the nature of the charges against him and the consequences of his plea, and that a factual basis exists for the tendered plea. The Court accepted Defendant's plea of guilty and deferred accepting the terms of the plea agreement and adjudicating Defendant guilty of the crime charged in Count Four (4) of the original Indictment to the sentencing court. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c) (1)(B) and U.S.S.G. § 6B1.1(c), acceptance of the proposed plea agreement, the stipulations and the nonbinding recommendations are deferred until the Court has received and reviewed the presentence report prepared in this matter.

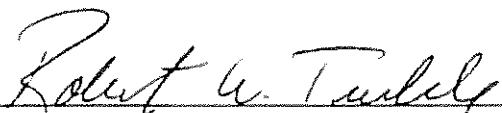
Pursuant to § 6A1 et seq. of the United States Sentencing Guidelines, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. The Probation Office undertake a presentence investigation of Defendant and prepare a presentence report for the Court;
2. The Probation Officer and all Parties comply with mandates of Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32 and U.S.S.G. § 6A1.2 regarding disclosure, objection, departure motion and sentencing statement requirements;
3. The matter will be set for sentencing following receipt of the presentence report and addendum containing any unresolved objections and the probation officer's comments on them;
4. Defendant is REMANDED to the custody of the U.S. Marshal Service pending sentencing.

IF COUNSEL ANTICIPATES A LENGTHY SENTENCING HEARING, PLEASE NOTIFY THE DISTRICT COURT SO THAT AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF TIME CAN BE SCHEDULED FOR IT.

The Clerk of the Court is directed to provide a copy of this Order to parties who appear pro se and all counsel of record, as applicable, as provided in the Administrative Procedures for Electronic Case Filing in the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia.

DATED: 3-16-2021



ROBERT W. TRUMBLE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE